SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

12¢

JUNE
NO. 164

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

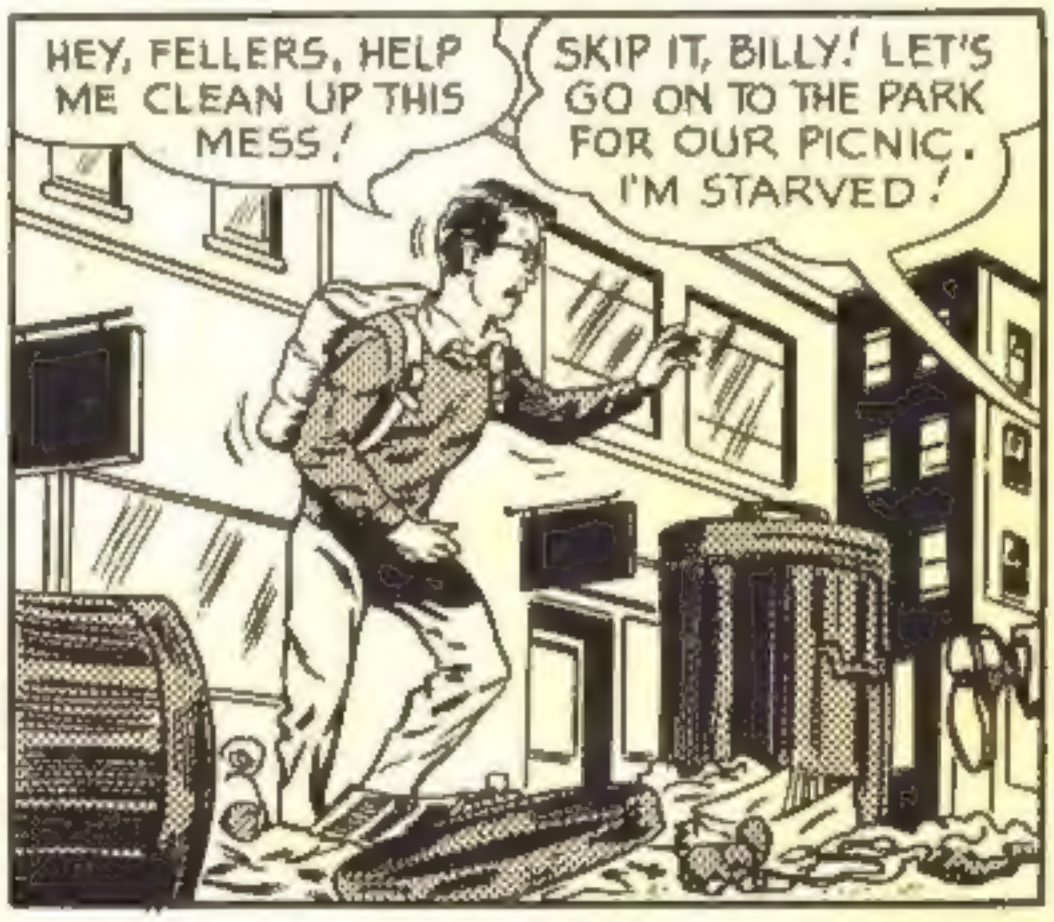
BATMAN

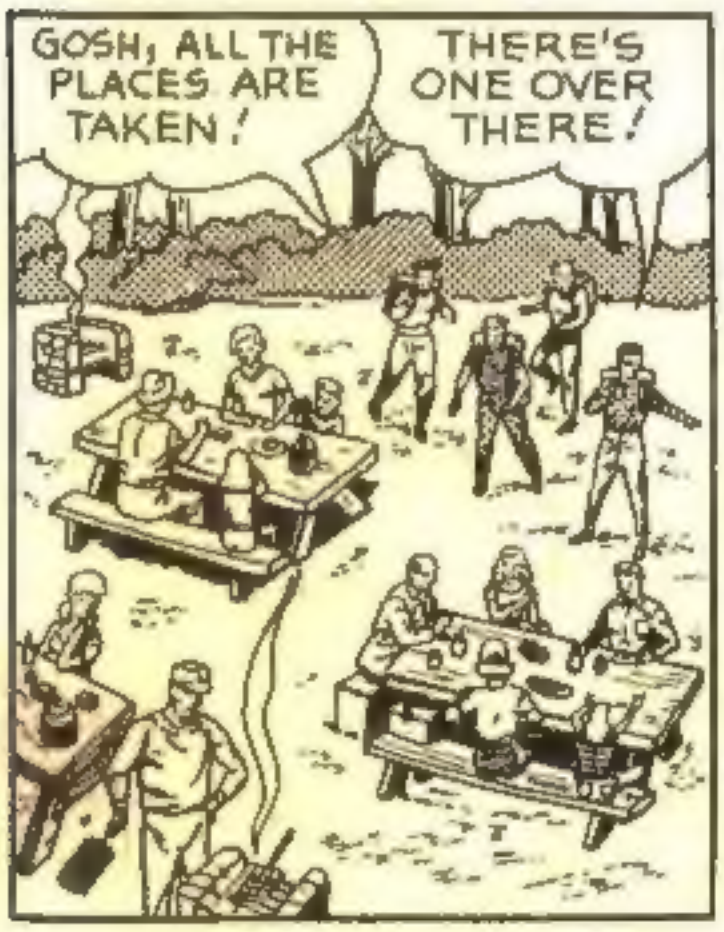
A DOUBLE-ACTION **BATMAN** *and* **ROBIN** THRILLER...

"TWO-WAY GEM CAPER!"

guest-starring The HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS!

Are *YOU* a Good Neighbor?





THE NERVE OF SOME PEOPLE! THEY DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE BUT THEMSELVES! WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER THEM?
WASTE

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

© 1964 BY NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

ALL GOTHAM CITY ANXIOUSLY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE FAMED HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS -- WHILE ONE MAN ALONE PLOTTED TO KEEP THEM AWAY!

WHY? EVEN **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WERE BAFFLED, AND LEARNED ALMOST TOO LATE THAT THE UNTIMELY APPEARANCE OF THE POPULAR FOLK SINGERS WOULD UPSET A FANTASTIC SCHEME TO PULL OFF A SENSATIONAL...

TWO-WAY GEM CAPER!

YOU'VE TRACKED ME DOWN, **BATMAN**-- BUT THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO!

BOB KANE

"This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever."

BATMAN, No. 164, June, 1964. Published monthly, with the exception of Jan., April, July and Oct. by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N.Y. Julius Schwartz, Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U.S., 95c including postage. Foreign, $1.90 in American funds. Canada, $1.15 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 East 42nd St., New York 17, N.Y.
Copyright 1964 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.
Printed in U.S.A.

LISTEN! AN UNFAMILIAR SOUND IN THE WAYNE MANSION ... A SOUND THAT RINGS GRATINGLY ON THE EARS OF BRUCE WAYNE ...

WHEN YOU SEE MY DARLIN'-- I'LL TELL YUH WHAT TO SAY--

IT SOUNDS LIKE MUSIC AND SINGING-- BUT--!

PLUNK TWANG!!

--TELL HER I LEFT TOWN T'NIGHT-- TO FIGHT DOC HOLLIDAY!

!!??

COMING TO GOTHAM CITY The HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS

TWANG! TWANG! PLUNK!

OH, I'LL FIGHT HOLLIDAY-- OH, I'LL FIGHT HOLL!--

WHOA, BOY-- WHOA! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

GEE WHIZ, BRUCE--CAN'T YOU SEE-- I'M PRACTICING! YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY--ON SOME SECRET BUSINESS--THAT YOU DON'T REALIZE THE HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS ARE DUE IN TOWN LATER TODAY!

HOOTENANNY--?

COMING TO GOTHAM CITY The HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS

HOOTENANNY FOLK-SINGING IS THE BIG RAGE NOWADAYS! THE HOTSHOTS USE LOCAL TALENT TO SING WITH THEM-- THAT'S WHY I'M PRACTICING!

IF YOU CAN SPARE A LITTLE TIME FROM YOUR HOOTENANNYING I'D LIKE TO CLEAR UP THAT "SECRET BUSINESS" I'VE BEEN ON.

AS DICK GRAYSON STARES EXCITEDLY, BRUCE WAYNE OPENS A SECRET PANEL IN A WALL...

HERE'S SURPRISE NUMBER ONE-- AN AUTOMATIC ELEVATOR TO THE BATCAVE!

BOY, THAT BEATS TAKING THE LONG STAIRWAY DOWN!

SECONDS LATER, BELOW...

WHERE'S THE BATMOBILE? IT'S NOT IN THE USUAL PLACE!

THAT'S THE NEXT PART OF MY SURPRISE! CLOSE YOUR EYES WHILE I PULL BACK THOSE DRAPES!

ALL RIGHT-- OPEN EYES!

WOW!

THE ORIGINAL BATMOBILE HAS HAD ITS DAY! THE TREND NOW IS TOWARD SPORTS CARS-- SMALL, MANEUVERABLE JOBS!

COME ON, BRUCE... LET'S TAKE IT FOR A SPIN!

NOT SO FAST! WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE INTO OUR COSTUMES FIRST!

SHORTLY... THE NEW BATMOBILE MOVES OUT OF ITS "SHOWROOM"...

WHAT'S THIS? A NEW TUNNEL ROUTE OUT OF THE BATCAVE?

BATCAVE

ELEVATOR TO WAYNE LIVING ROOM

BATPLANE HANGAR

WAYNE

LABORATORY

GARAGE

RADIO ROOM

WORK SHOP

RIGHT! WE'RE NO LONGER USING THE OLD BARN EXIT! BUT THERE ARE STILL MORE SURPRISES TO COME!

AS THEY APPROACH WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DEAD END, **BATMAN** PUSHES A DASHBOARD BUTTON, AND...

WOW-EE! AN AUTOMATIC DOOR!

THAT OPENS BY REMOTE ELECTRONIC CONTROL--

AS THEY MAKE THEIR EXIT...

--AND CLOSES THE SAME WAY! THAT'S SURE A NEAT ELECTRONICS GIMMICK!

AFTER WE DRIVE OUT OF THIS HILLSIDE, WE GET ONTO A PRIVATE ROAD THAT LEADS INTO THE HIGHWAY--WITH NO ONE BEING THE WISER WHERE WE CAME FROM!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, A MUSICAL BUS HEADS TOWARD **GOTHAM CITY**...

♫ IN GOTHAM CITY-- IN GOTHAM TOWN-- THERE ARE TWO FOLKS OF GREAT RENOWN... ♫

THE HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS GOTHAM CITY BOUND

GOTHAM CITY 20 MILES

♫ THEY STOP THE CROOKS... FROM ALL THEIR ROBBIN'... THEY CALL THESE TWO... **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**! ♫

BUT UP AHEAD, AROUND A BEND, LURKS A SOUR NOTE...

IN GOTHAM CITY... IN GOTHAM TOWN-- ♫

I'VE WORKED TOO LONG-- MADE TOO MANY PLANS--TO HAVE THE ARRIVAL OF THE **HOOTENANNYS** SPOIL EVERYTHING NOW!

ROAD CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

IN EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED, MY EVERY MOVE WAS MADE WITH "PLAN A" BACKED UP BY AN ALTERNATE "PLAN B"-- BUT EVEN I DIDN'T FIGURE ON A LAST-MINUTE APPEARANCE OF THE HOOTENANNYS IN GOTHAM SQUARE!

ROAD CLOSED FOR REPAIR

THEY'RE SCHEDULED TO BE THERE AT 8:30--THE EXACT TIME MY BIG JOB MUST BE PULLED! THERE'LL BE A CROWD--NO TRAFFIC-- AND MY CAPER WILL BE STOPPED COLD--UNLESS I DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

MOMENTS LATER...

HOLD IT! YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH HERE!

I'VE GOT TO! MY PASSENGERS ARE DUE IN GOTHAM CITY AT 8:30! AND A DETOUR WILL MAKE US LATE!

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE! I'M ON GOTHAM CITY'S HOOTENANNY GREETING COMMITTEE! MY JOB IS TO GUIDE YOU INTO TOWN OVER ANOTHER ROAD--SO YOU WON'T BE LATE FOR THE CELEBRATION! LET'S ROLL!

LATER, WHEN THE BATMOBILE BRAKES TO A HALT...

VERY ODD! A SIGN FACING THE CLIFFSDALE ROAD SAYING THE MAIN HIGH-WAY IS UNDER REPAIR-- BUT WE JUST DROVE OVER IT, AND IT'S IN PERFECT SHAPE! SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!

ROAD CLOSED FOR RE[illegible]IR

AFTER REMOVING THE PUZZLING SIGN...

I JUST THOUGHT-- THE HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS ARE TRAVELING THIS WAY FROM CLIFFSDALE-- WHERE THEY JUST PUT ON A SHOW!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALREADY PASSED HERE, ROBIN! THE FRESH TIRE TRACKS ON THIS DIRT ROAD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY A BUS!

BUT WHY WOULD ANYBODY PUT THAT SIGN THERE TO MISDIRECT TRAFFIC?

EXACTLY WHAT I HOPE TO FIND OUT-- BY FOLLOWING THOSE BUS TRACKS!

WHILE UP AHEAD, THE *HOOTENANNY* BUS RUNS OVER A PREPARED "TRIP" IN THE ROAD...

THIS IS WHERE MY TWO-WAY PLAN STARTS PAYING DIVIDENDS!

AND JUST A FEW YARDS AHEAD, A PLANK BRISTLING WITH SPIKES FLIPS UP, AND...

PERFECT TIMING!

VROOSH!

KA-POP!

THEN...

WHAT LUCK-- FOUR FLAT TIRES!

YOU'RE STUCK OUT HERE... JUST AS I PLANNED IT!

AND AT THAT INSTANT, THE SLEEK *BATMOBILE* SCREECHES TO A STOP...

HOLD ON, MISTER! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

THERE'S THE *HOOTENANNY* BUS-- AND A MAN FLEEING FROM IT! COME ON, *ROBIN*! LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP!

HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS

...?...

BATMAN AND *ROBIN*! THEY'LL STOP THAT CHARACTER!

THAT'S WHAT *THEY* THINK!

AS THE FLEEING FIGURE REACHES THE BRUSH, THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS LEAP...

GET HIM--BEFORE HE GETS INTO THE THICKETS!

SUDDENLY, THEIR QUARRY TAKES A SUDDEN, FAST TURN, AND...

THIS ISN'T A REAL BRUSH!

IT'S A NETWORK OF STRONG WIRES, PAINTED LIKE BRUSH! OUR HANDS ARE TRAPPED!

HE LURED US INTO SOMETHING LIKE THE OLD CHINESE TRAP--A TRICKY DEVICE YOU CAN EASILY SLIP YOUR HANDS INTO--BUT CAN'T GET OUT AGAIN!

HA-HA-HA!

AS THE MYSTERY MAN DRIVES OFF IN A CAR HE HAD HIDDEN NEARBY...

ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING TO GO WRONG OUT HERE--AND SURELY, I HADN'T BANKED ON BATMAN AND ROBIN SHOWING UP--I'M GLAD I TOOK THE PRECAUTION TO SET THAT "JUST-IN-CASE" TRAP!

EVERYTHING'S GOING LIKE CLOCKWORK SO FAR! HMM--7:15! IT'LL BE WELL AFTER 8:30 BEFORE THE HOOTENANNYS GET A LIFT INTO TOWN! BY THEN, I'LL BE A MILLION DOLLARS RICHER!

MEANWHILE...

THANKS FOR HELPING US OUT OF THAT TRAP, MOTEMOTE.

THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS DRIVE BACK TO GOTHAM CITY AND HAVE ANOTHER BUS SENT OUT FOR YOU! WE'LL ALSO TELL THAT COMMITTEE TO HOLD OFF THE CELEBRATION TILL YOU ARRIVE!

AS THE DYNAMIC DUO DRIVES OFF...

THEY'RE HAPPY ENOUGH TO STAY HERE AND REHEARSE!

BUT I'M NOT HAPPY! I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY THAT MAN PUT UP THE SIGN AND DETOURED THE MOOTENANNYS OUT HERE! I DON'T THINK WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!

AT 8:22, AS DARKNESS FALLS, A FAMILIAR FIGURE PARKS IN FRONT OF THE NEW GOTHAM SQUARE MUSEUM, AND...

H'LO, MR. DABBLO! YOU'RE EARLY! THE OPENING IS AT 9:00--SHARP!

GOTHAM SQUARE MUSEUM

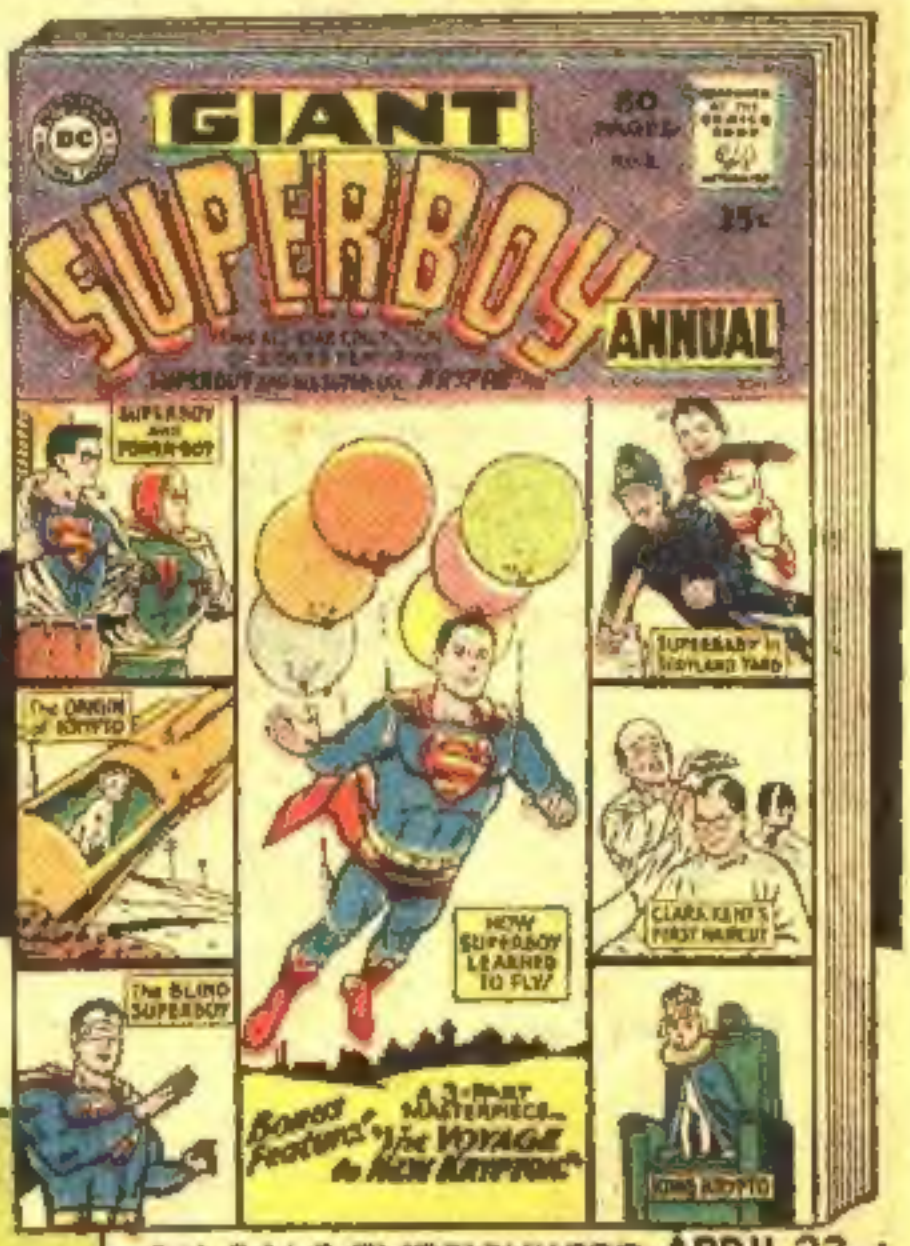
GOTHAM SQUARE MUSEUM GRAND OPENING RARE TREASURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

I KNOW, BUT I WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN MY GOLDEN AZTEC PYRAMID IS OKAY--AND HAS A GOOD DISPLAY SPOT IN THE EXHIBIT!

STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

Watch for the FIRST SUPERBOY ANNUAL!

80 PAGE



FEATURING THE MOST FABULOUS OLD SUPERBOY and KRYPTO STORIES FROM THE "GOLDEN AGE" OF COMICS!

ALSO GREAT STORIES STARRING SUPERBOY'S KRYPTONIAN PARENTS, JOR-EL AND LARA, AND HIS FOSTER-PARENTS, JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT.

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

Plus LANA LANG, OF COURSE!

Extra! SPECIAL FEATURES ON THE PHANTOM ZONE VILLAINS... SUPERBOY'S ANCESTORS... EFFECTS OF RED KRYPTONITE!

ON SALE EVERYWHERE APRIL 23rd

THE TWO-WAY GEM CAPER -- PART 2

IT IS 8:27 WHEN A MUSEUM GUARD ESCORTS MR. DABBLO INTO THE MAIN EXHIBIT ROOM -- ASLITTER WITH ITS MANY PRIZES...

YOUR GOLDEN AZTEC PYRAMID IS PLACED RIGHT NEAR THE FABULOUS PEARL OF THE ORIENT, WORTH ABOUT A MILLION DOLLARS!

MY AZTEC PYRAMID HAS HISTORICAL VALUE -- AND I WANT TO BE SURE IT'S AS SAFE HERE AS THAT PEARL!

SAFER THAN THE GOLD IN FORT KNOX! IF ANYBODY EVEN MOVES ONE OF THESE OBJECTS, AN ALARM RINGS INSTANTLY!

I SEE...

DABBLO GLANCES QUICKLY AT HIS WATCH -- THEN, BEFORE THE VERY EYES OF THE ASTONISHED GUARDS...

EIGHT-THIRTY... IT'S TIME..!

MR. DABBLO -- LOOK! YOUR PYRAMID'S TAKING OFF -- LIKE A ROCKET!

CLANG! CLANG!

CLANG!

SSSSSSSSS!

GET MY PYRAMID! I'LL SUMMON THE OTHER GUARDS! GUARDS!

I'VE SWIPED THE PEARL!

CLANG!

CLANG!!

AFTER THE OTHER GUARDS RUSH IN TO ANSWER THE ALARM -- AND DABBLO'S SHOUTS...

HA! IT WORKED PERFECTLY! THE SMALL JET MECHANISM I HAD PLACED WITHIN THE PYRAMID... SET TO GO OFF AT EXACTLY 8:30... SENT THE THING FLYING!

STOP DABBLO! HE'S GOT THE PEARL!

AS THE FLEEING THIEF LEAPS INTO HIS CAR...

HALT! OR WE'LL FIRE!

WE BETTER FIRE! HE'S NOT STOPPING!

THIS CAR'S BULLET-PROOF--AND THE TIRES ARE PUNCTURE-PROOF! I PLANNED MY GETAWAY WELL!

POW! POW! POW!

BNEEE

HE ELUDED US... BUT NOT FOR LONG! THE ALARM ALSO SOUNDS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS! CALL DESCRIPTIONS OF **DABBLO** AND HIS CAR! **HURRY!**

SHORTLY, THE FAMED **BAT-SIGNAL** GLOWS LIKE A SATELLITE IN THE NIGHT SKIES, SPOTTED BY...

WE'RE GETTING INTO **GOTHAM CITY** JUST IN TIME, **BATMAN!** LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE...

AND NOW, **ROBIN**--THE FINAL SURPRISE I HAVE FOR YOU!

FLIPPING OPEN THE DASHBOARD COMPARTMENT, **BATMAN** POINTS TO...

A **HOT-LINE** PHONE... DIRECTLY TO COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE! IT'LL TAKE ONLY A MOMENT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

AT THAT INSTANT, COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PHONE RINGS AND...

DABBLO WAS SPOTTED HEADING DOWN FRONT STREET, **BATMAN**--TOWARD WATER STREET! SQUAD CARS ARE THROWING A DRAGNET AROUND THE AREA!

BATMAN

FILLED IN WITH DETAILS AND DESCRIPTIONS, BATMAN MANEUVERS THE SLEEK CAR INTO THE WATER STREET AREA, WHERE ...

I NOTICED EVERY STREET BLOCKED--A PROWL CAR HAD TO MOVE TO LET US BY! YOU MUST HAVE DABBLO CORNERED IN HERE!

HIS CAR IS BACK THERE-- BUT THE MAN IS GONE -- VANISHED!

ALL THESE WAREHOUSE DOORS ARE FIRMLY LOCKED! DABBLO COULDN'T HAVE ENTERED ANY OF THE BUILDINGS! AND THE FIRE ESCAPE LADDER IS TOO HIGH FOR A MAN TO REACH!

SO IT SEEMS..

BUT AS THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER EXAMINES THE GROUND BENEATH THE FIRE-ESCAPE...

FRESHLY CHIPPED PAINT-- FROM THE FIRE-ESCAPE! SOMEBODY HAS USED IT-- VERY RECENTLY!

LASSOING THE LADDER WITH HIS SILK ROPE, BATMAN HAULS IT DOWN, THEN...

DABBLO COULD HAVE PULLED IT DOWN THE SAME WAY-- THEN PULLED IT UP AFTER HIM! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOOK ABOVE!

SHORTLY, ON THE ROOF...

LOOK, ROBIN... TRACKS IN THE TAR! THE STUFF IS STILL SOFT FROM TODAY'S HEAT!

THEY LEAD TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING!

AT THE FAR EDGE...

THE TRACKS END HERE! WHERE'D DABBLO GET TO?

HERE'S A ROPE! MY GUESS IS THAT HE SWUNG TO THE ROOF ACROSS THE WAY! WE'RE GOING TO DO THE SAME!

AS THE CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM PREPARES TO SWING OVER...

I COULD'VE LEFT A TOUGHER TRAIL--BUT WHAT FOR? *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* KNOW EVERY INCH OF *GOTHAM CITY*, AND WERE BOUND TO PICK UP *ANY* TRAIL I LEFT! ANYWAY, THIS IS *TRAIL'S END* FOR THEM!

WAITING TILL HIS PURSUERS ARE IN MID-AIR, *GABBLO* AIMS A TELEVISION ANTENNA-LIKE DEVICE FIRST AT *BATMAN*...

HE SENT SOME KIND OF SHOCK INTO *BATMAN*... HE'S P-FALLING!

TWISTING HIMSELF LIKE A CAT, *BATMAN* DRAWS THE *BATARANG*--HURLS IT...

I'M DONE FOR... BUT I CAN'T LET HIM GET *ROBIN*...

INSTANTLY, THE *BOY WONDER* SLIDES DOWN THE LENGTH OF ROPE TRAILING BENEATH HIM, AND...

GRAB MY ROPE, *BATMAN!*

CLIMBING BACK ONTO THE ROOF FROM WHICH THEY STARTED, BATMAN RETRIEVES HIS ROPE, AND AGAIN THEY SWING TO THE FAR ROOF, WHERE ...

THERE'S WHERE DABBLO WAS STANDING--BUT HIS TRACKS DON'T LEAD OFF ANYWHERE! WHERE COULD HE HAVE DISAPPEARED TO?

SOMETHING BOTHERING ME ABOUT THIS DEVICE.

OF ALL THE METHODS DABBLO COULD HAVE USED TO GET RID OF US, WHY THIS THING? WONDER IF IT SERVES MORE THAN ONE PURPOSE...

IT MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF AN ELECTRONICS GIMMICK.

"ELECTRONICS GIMMICK"! YOU'VE HIT IT, ROBIN! IT MIGHT WORK SOMETHING LIKE OUR DASHBOARD BUTTON FOR OPENING THE CONCEALED BATCAVE TUNNEL DOOR--BY REMOTE CONTROL--

SURE ENOUGH--A SECRET DOOR IS SLIDING OPEN!

AND STARING DOWN, THEY SEE...

I SACRIFICED MY GOLDEN PYRAMID FOR THIS PEARL BEAUTY--SO GET ME A TOP PRICE FOR IT ON THE UNDERWORLD MARKET... HEY--THE SLIDING ROOFTOP--

THE NEXT MOMENT...

BATMAN... ROBIN!

AS BATMAN AND ROBIN EACH TANGLE WITH A CROOK...

HERE, BATMAN--YOU CAN PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THIS ONE!

FAIR EXCHANGE, ROBIN--YOU HANDLE THIS ONE!

ONE MORE TURN AROUND-- TO MAKE SURE!

OKAY-- CATCH!

UHH-H!

THEN, AS BATMAN FORCES OPEN DABBLO'S LEFT HAND...

SURE--YOU'VE GOT THE PEARL, BATMAN--BUT IT'S GOING TO BE WORTHLESS! IT'S MY FINAL TWO-WAY TRICK!

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

IF EXPOSED LONG ENOUGH TO PERSPIRATION-- WHICH COLLECTED IN DABBLO'S CLOSED HAND-- AN EXPENSIVE PEARL CAN BE DAMAGED! I'LL JUST WIPE IT OFF!

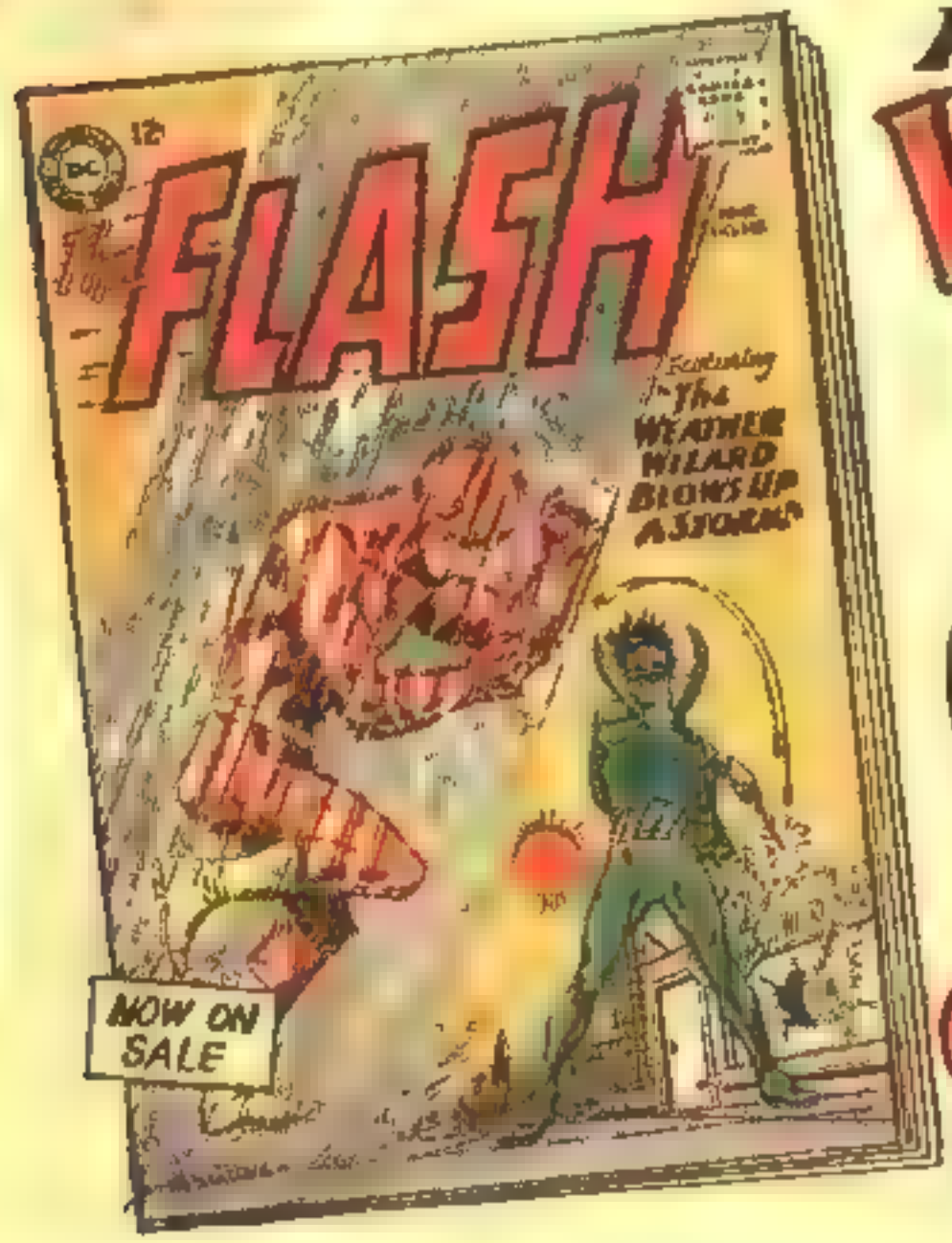
LET'S GET THESE TWO CROOKS TO THE POLICE, THEN RETURN THE PEARL TO GOTHAM SQUARE-- WHERE WE HAVE A DATE!

LATER, AFTER SWITCHING BACK TO BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

--THEY STOP THE CROOKS-- FROM ALL THEIR ROBBIN'-- THEY CALL THESE TWO-- BATMAN AND ROBIN!

I DIDN'T GET TO SING WITH THE HOOTENANNYS, BRUCE--BUT IT'S A SWELL FEELING TO BE HONORED BY THEM!

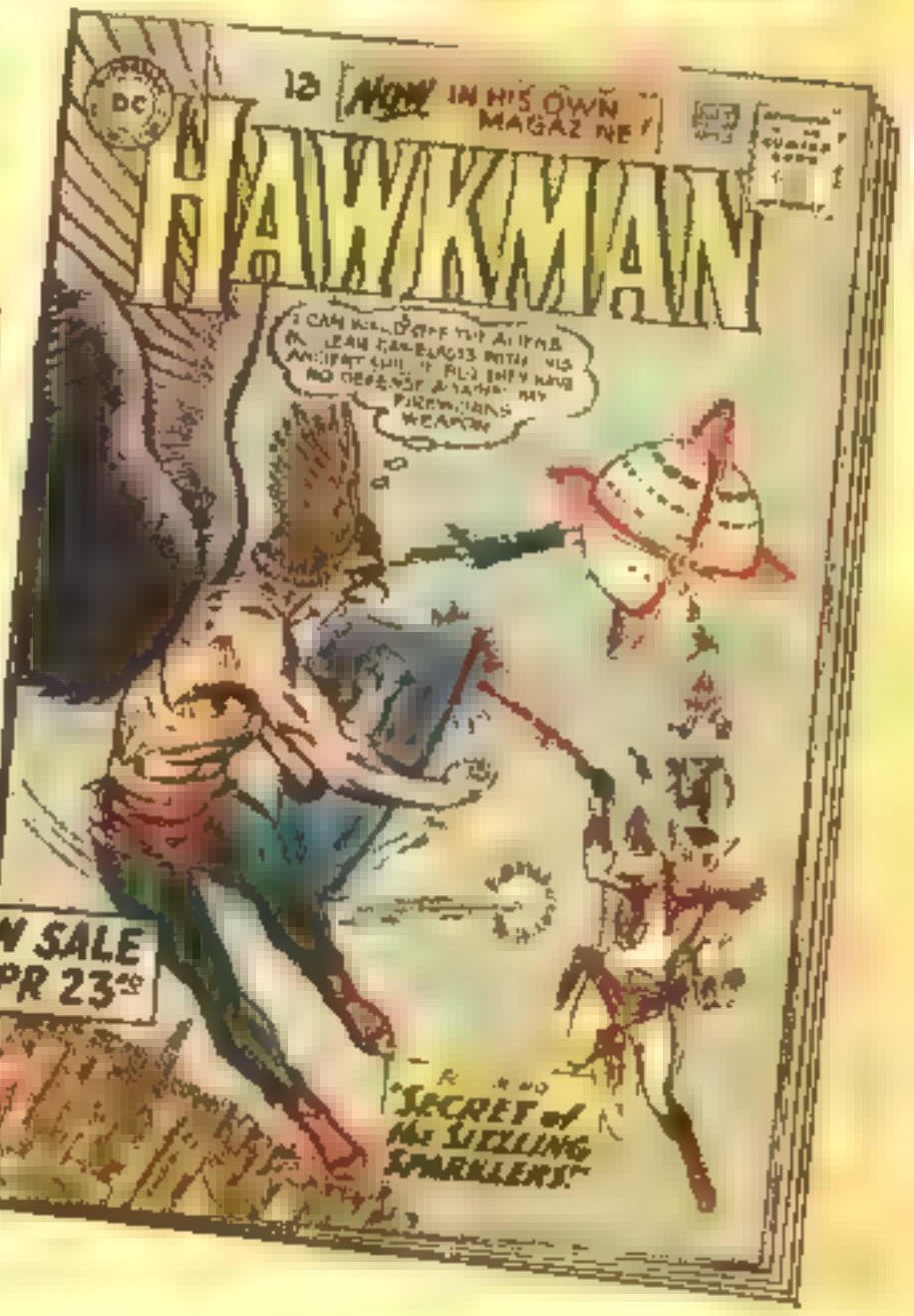
The End



For The VERY BEST

SUPERMAN • NATIONAL COMICS • DC

in COMICS READING



ANCIENT CRIME-DETECTION METHODS!

IN CHINA, CENTURIES AGO, A CRIME-SUSPECT WAS OBLIGED TO SWALLOW A HANDFUL OF RICE TO DETERMINE HIS GUILT OR INNOCENCE.

IF THE SUSPECT FAILED TO SWALLOW THE RICE, HE WAS JUDGED *GUILTY!* THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS BEHIND THIS PROCEDURE WAS THAT THE EMOTIONS OF A GUILTY PERSON CAUSE HIS SALIVARY GLANDS TO DRY UP, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SWALLOW ANYTHING...

ANOTHER ANCIENT METHOD FOR TESTING THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF A PERSON WAS TO SEND HIM INTO A DARK ROOM WITH A "MAGIC" DONKEY--AND THERE PULL ITS TAIL. HE WAS TOLD THAT IF THE DONKEY BRAYED WHEN ITS TAIL WAS PULLED IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS GUILTY...

OBVIOUSLY, A GUILTY PERSON WOULD REFRAIN FROM PULLING THE DONKEY'S TAIL. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE TAIL WAS SECRETLY COATED WITH SOOT, A GUILTY PARTY WOULD BETRAY HIMSELF BY **NOT** HAVING ANY SOOT ON HIS HAND!..

INTRODUCING A NEW SERIES--

The MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY!

CARE TO COMPETE WITH THOSE WHO YEARN TO JOIN THE EXCLUSIVE MYSTERY ANALYSTS CLUB? ONE REQUIREMENT IS TO SOLVE A BAFFLING MYSTERY--SO HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY! STRING ALONG WITH A CANDIDATE WHO THINKS HE'S UNRAVELED ONE OF THE KNOTTIEST PUZZLES OF OUR TIME--BUT BE CAREFUL, IT'S A TRICKY BUSINESS TRYING TO COME UP WITH AN ANSWER TO...

BATMAN'S GREAT FACE-SAVING FEAT!

BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

BETTER HIDE YOUR EYES, BATMAN! THAT FLARE SHOT OFF BY THE CROOKS COULD TEMPORARILY BLIND YOU!

TH-THANKS, RANKIN!

RANKIN'S VERY HELPFUL--BUT IS HE HELPING ME OR THOSE CROOKS?

BOB KANE

BATMAN

YOU ARE LOOKING IN AT THE MEETING ROOM OF A UNIQUE AND EXCLUSIVE CLUB THE *MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY*, EXPERTS AT THE BUSINESS OF SOLVING BIZARRE MYSTERIES...

AS YOU WAIT FOR OTHER MEMBERS TO ARRIVE, OBSERVE THE TWO MEN SEATED NEAR THE END OF THE TABLE ... PROF. *RALPH VERN*... WHOSE LABORATORY SLEUTHING LED TO THE CONVICTION OF A SCORE OF CRIMINALS--AND REPORTER *ART SADDONS*, WINNER OF THE "*FRONT PAGE AWARD*" FOR HIS SUCCESSES IN CRACKING UNSOLVED CRIME CASES...

ENTERING NOW ARE MYSTERY NOVELIST *KAYE DAYE*, WHOSE FICTIONAL VERSION OF JUDGE BLADER'S STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE LED TO THE SOLUTION OF THAT REAL-LIFE MYSTERY... AND *BATMAN*, DUBBED THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE ...

I COULDN'T PUT YOUR LAST BOOK DOWN, MISS DAYE--"*FEAR WALKS ON TIP-TOE!*"

A REAL COMPLIMENT, *BATMAN*--COMING FROM YOU.

THERE IS NO TIME TO INTRODUCE THE REST OF THE MEMBERS, FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER...

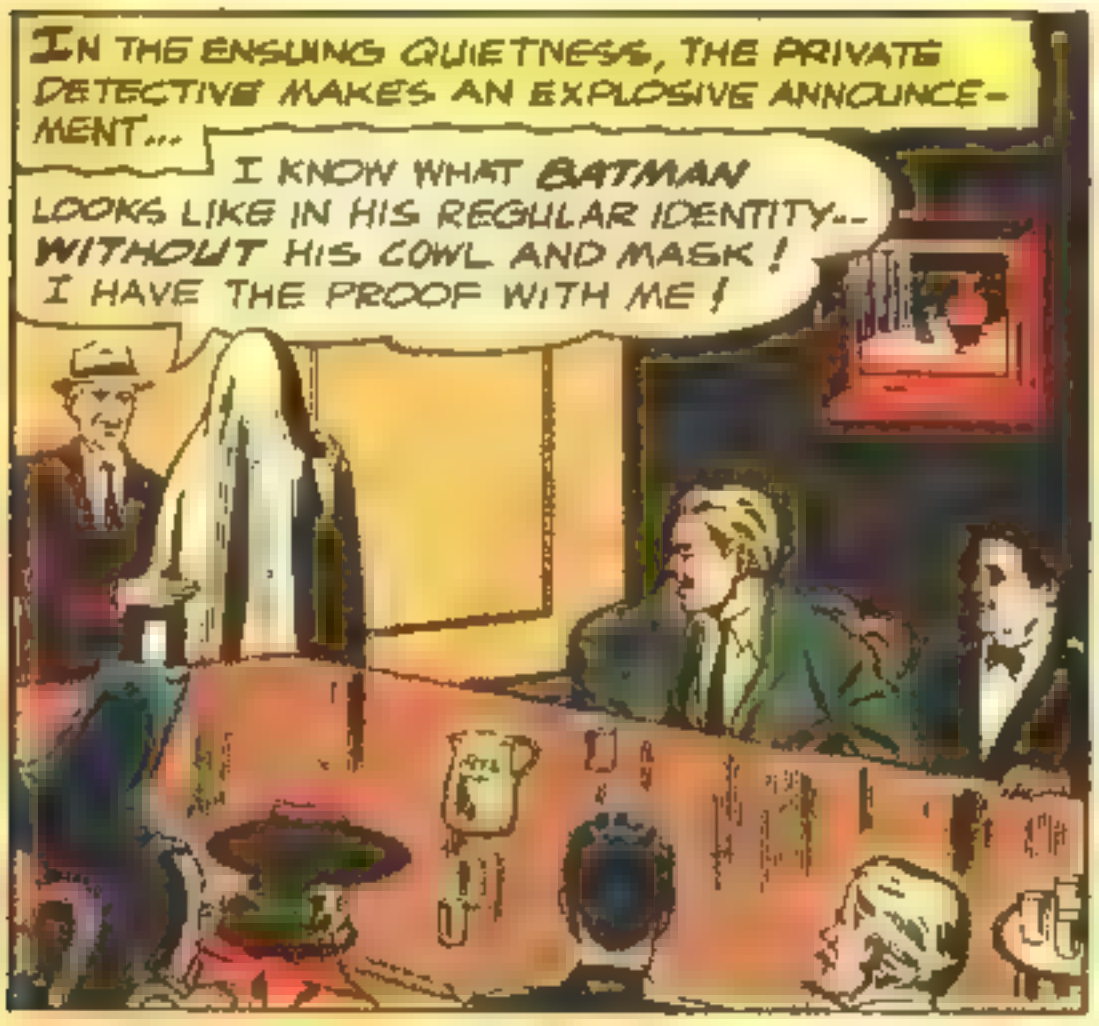
WE'RE HERE TONIGHT TO CONSIDER A MEMBER APPLICANT WHOSE CREDENTIALS MERIT SERIOUS DELIBERATION--AH, HERE HE COMES NOW...

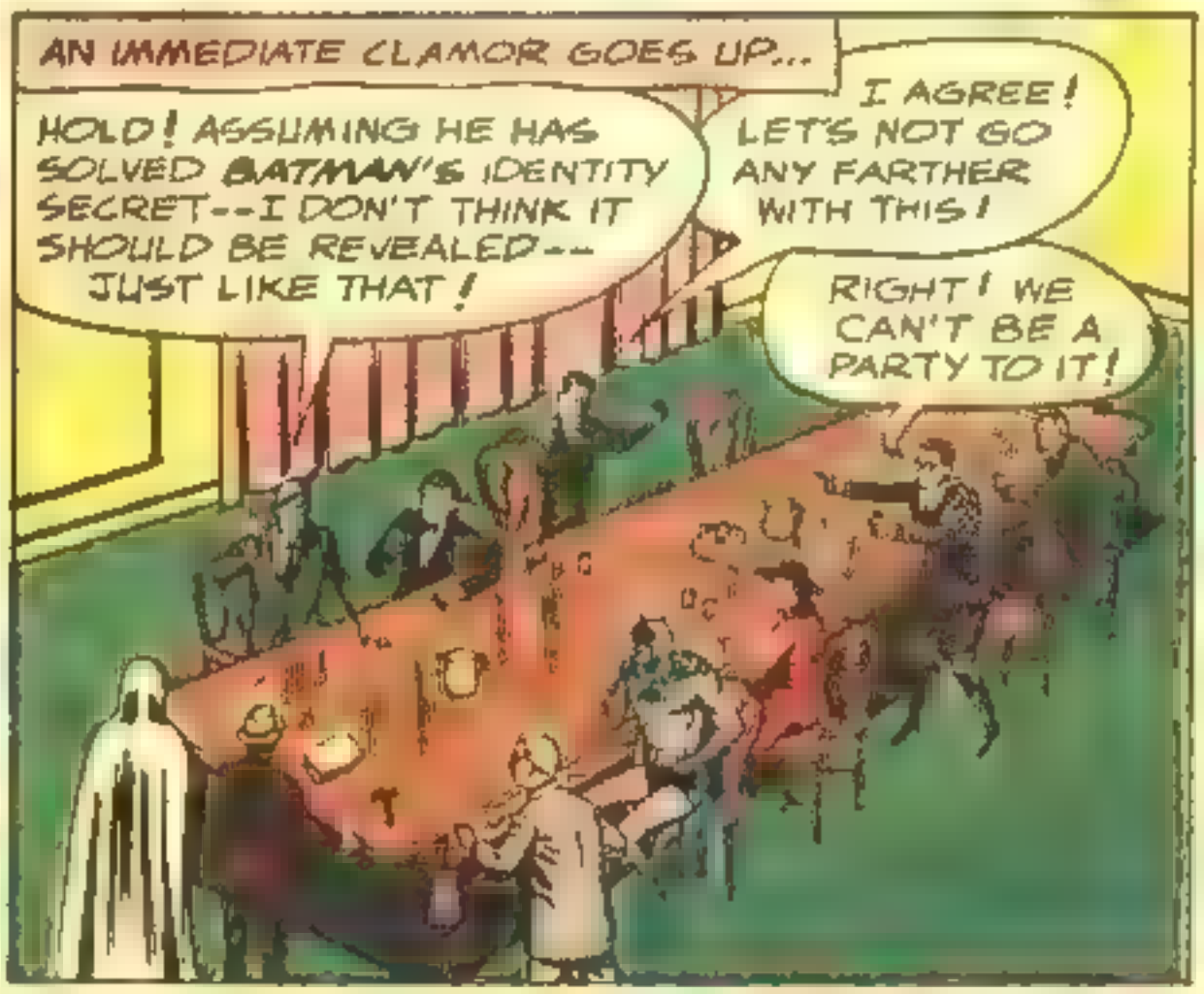
ALL EYES TURN TO THE DOORWAY, AS...

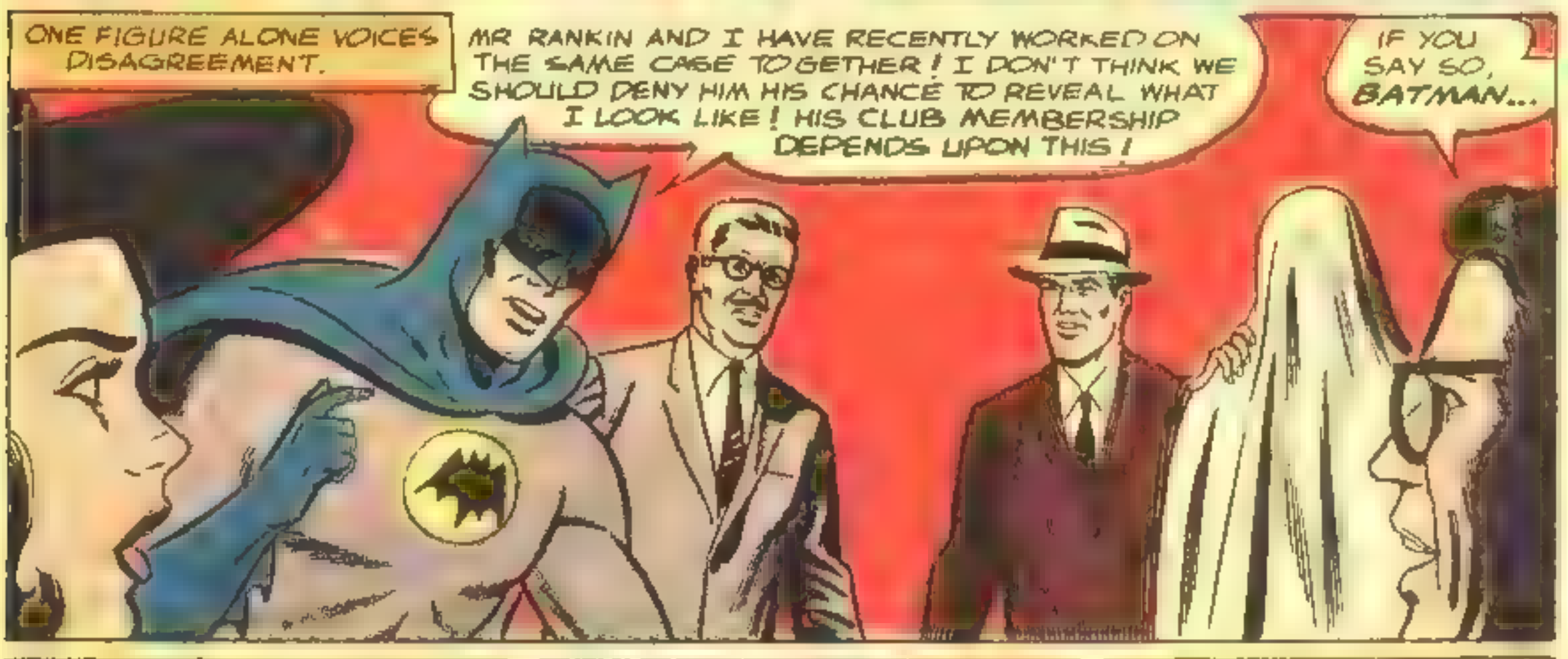
SOLUTION TO EXCEPTIONAL MYSTERIES IS AN ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR *HUGH RANKIN* IS CONVINCED HE'LL BE VOTED IN TONIGHT, BECAUSE...

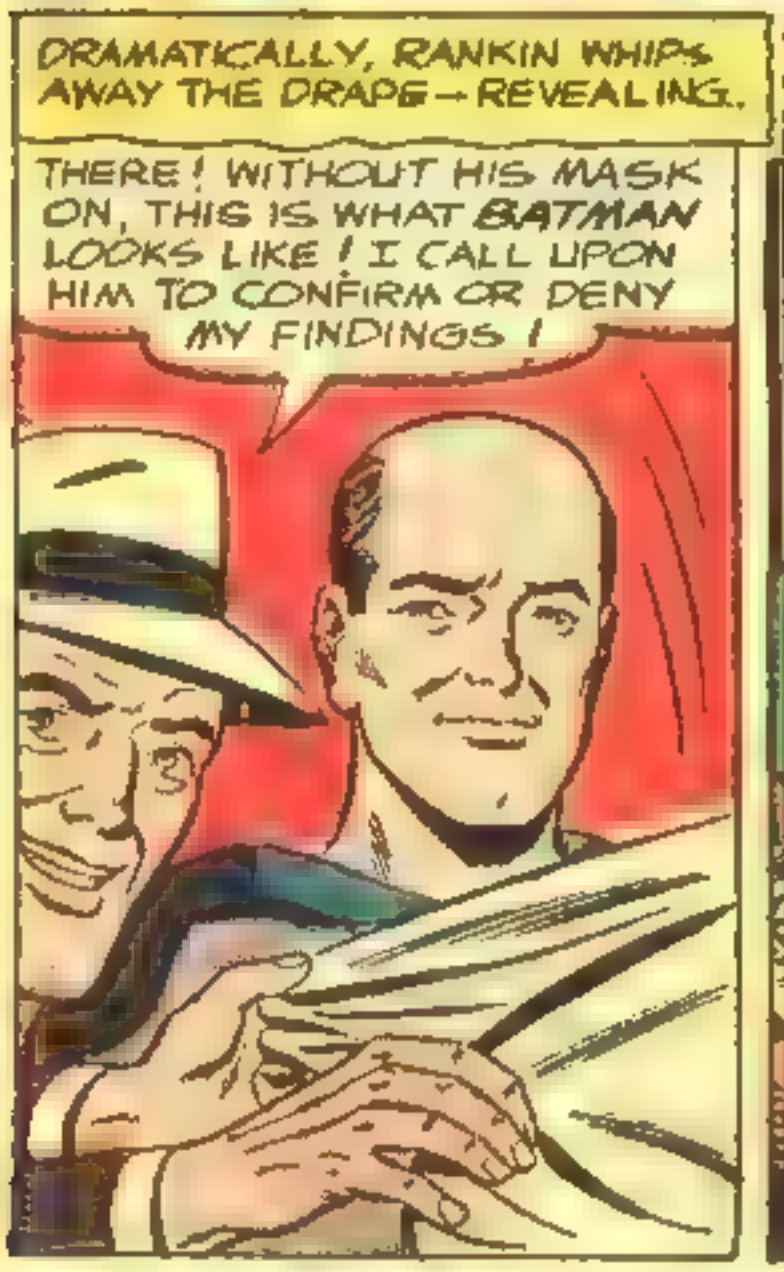
...BECAUSE I HAVE SOLVED *GOTHAM CITY'S GREATEST MYSTERY!*

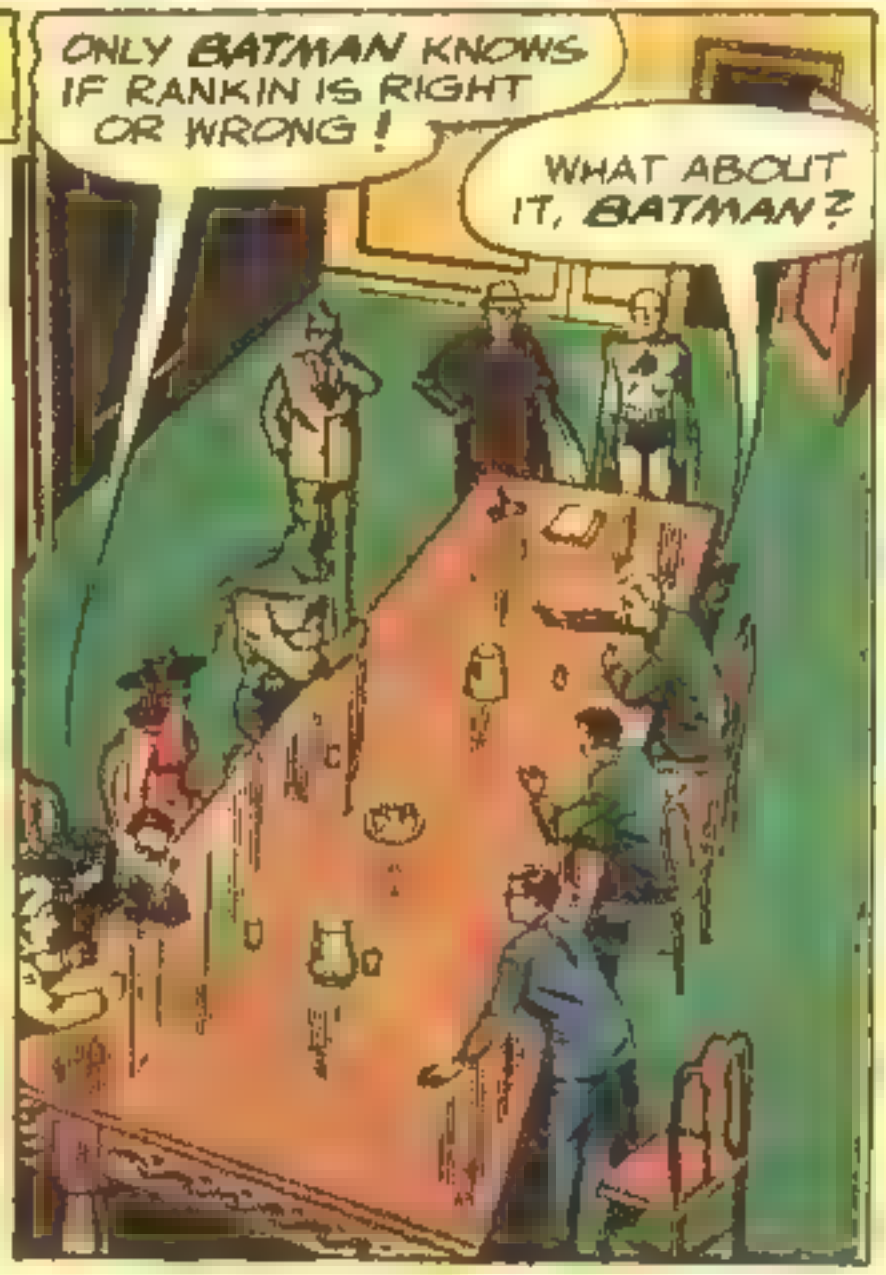
BATMAN


IN THE ENSUING QUIETNESS, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE MAKES AN EXPLOSIVE ANNOUNCEMENT...
I KNOW WHAT BATMAN LOOKS LIKE IN HIS REGULAR IDENTITY-- WITHOUT HIS COWL AND MASK! I HAVE THE PROOF WITH ME!


AN IMMEDIATE CLAMOR GOES UP...
HOLD! ASSUMING HE HAS SOLVED BATMAN'S IDENTITY SECRET--I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE REVEALED-- JUST LIKE THAT!
I AGREE! LET'S NOT GO ANY FARTHER WITH THIS!
RIGHT! WE CAN'T BE A PARTY TO IT!


ONE FIGURE ALONE VOICES DISAGREEMENT.
MR RANKIN AND I HAVE RECENTLY WORKED ON THE SAME CASE TOGETHER! I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DENY HIM HIS CHANCE TO REVEAL WHAT I LOOK LIKE! HIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP DEPENDS UPON THIS!
IF YOU SAY SO, BATMAN...


DRAMATICALLY, RANKIN WHIPS AWAY THE DRAPE--REVEALING.
THERE! WITHOUT HIS MASK ON, THIS IS WHAT BATMAN LOOKS LIKE! I CALL UPON HIM TO CONFIRM OR DENY MY FINDINGS!


ONLY BATMAN KNOWS IF RANKIN IS RIGHT OR WRONG!
WHAT ABOUT IT, BATMAN?

WITHOUT REPLY, BATMAN RISES--AND IN THE HUSHED SILENCE, WALKS TO THE DUMMY FIGURE...
WH--WHAT'S BATMAN GOING TO DO?

BATMAN

BEFORE THE STUNNED AUDIENCE, THE CRIME-FIGHTER BEGINS TO...

H-HE'S LIFTING HIS MASK!

LOOK! RANKIN WAS RIGHT! IT'S AN EXACT LIKENESS!

SHOCKED AT FIRST BY THE SENSATIONAL REVELATION, THE OTHER MEMBERS GATHER EXCITEDLY AROUND THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE...

YOU MUST TELL US — IN DETAIL — HOW YOU KNEW BATMAN'S MASKED FEATURES SO THOROUGHLY THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A LOOK-ALIKE FIGURE OF HIM!

IN THRILLING DETAIL, RANKIN UNFOLDS HIS STARTLING STORY. THEN...

TELL US, BATMAN, WHO ARE YOU IN THIS OTHER IDENTITY?

THAT MUCH AT LEAST WILL REMAIN MY SECRET!

CLAP! CLAP!

JUST PRIOR TO THE SECRET VOTING, A CUSTOMARY REMINDER IS MADE...

REMEMBER, A WHITE BALL MEANS ACCEPTANCE OF THE CANDIDATE-- WHILE EVEN A SINGLE BLACK BALL MEANS REJECTION!

HOW CAN RANKIN MISS-- AFTER THE DISCOVERY HE'S MADE?

BUT FOLLOWING THE BALLOTING--TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF NEARLY EVERY ONE THERE...

ONE LONE BLACK BALL! RANKIN HAS BEEN REJECTED!

BUT WHY... AND BY WHOM?

PUZZLED MEMBERS SEARCH IN VAIN FOR THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK-[redacted]...

RANKIN LOOKED LIKE A SHOO-IN! WHY WAS HE BLACK-BALLED?

WHOEVER VOTED AGAINST HIM MUST HAVE HAD A GOOD REASON!

LATER, WHEN BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE ARRIVES HOME TO TELL DICK GRAYSON OF THE INTRIGUING EVENT AT THE CLUB...

I KNOW YOU CAST THE BLACK BALL—BECAUSE RANKIN WAS WRONG! BUT HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO DISGUISE YOUR FACE TO THE EXACT LIKENESS OF RANKIN'S DUMMY?

THAT'S THE STORY I'VE BEEN HOLDING OFF TELLING YOU, DICK—TILL I HAD ALL THE FACTS!

"IT ALL BEGAN THAT NIGHT WHEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, WE WERE PATROLLING THE ROOFTOPS IN SEARCH OF THE NEW SENSATIONAL GANG, THE TRAPEZE TEN..."

OVER THERE, ROBIN--ON THAT DERRICK! IT'S SOME OF THE GANG!

"YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT THE GANG HAD TURNED A DERRICK FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE TO WHERE IT REARED UP NEAR THE GOTHAM INSURANCE BUILDING NEXT DOOR, AND..."

HURRY—THIS JOB MUST GO OFF LIKE CLOCK-WORK!

"WHEN WE REACHED AN ADJACENT ROOF..."

THE INSURANCE COMPANY'S SAFES ARE ON THAT FLOOR, ROBIN—WHERE THE CROOKS CAUGHT THE LEDGE WITH A GRAPPLING HOOK! GET TO THE DERRICK—SO THEY CAN'T ESCAPE DOWN IT...

I'LL CIRCLE AROUND TO THE NEXT ROOF, SWING OVER TO THAT SAME LEDGE, AND--

"OUT OF NOWHERE A FLYING FIGURE HIT ME--- LIKE A TACKLE SMEARING A QUARTERBACK..."

HEY-- WHAT--

"NEXT CAME THE ROARING CHATTER OF AN UNSEEN SUB-MACHINE GUN..."

¡Whew! THAT WAS CLOSE, BATMAN! I KNOCKED YOU OUT OF THE WAY--JUST IN TIME!

RATATAT!

"THEN..."

THERE'S THE GUY WITH THE CHOPPER! HE WAS PLANTED AS A 'SENTRY,' TO COVER THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GANG!

THANKS FOR "SAVING" ME--BUT, ACTUALLY, JUST BEFORE YOU BANGED INTO ME, I SPOTTED A GLINT ON THE GUN, AND WAS PREPARED TO DIVE OUT OF THE PATH OF FIRE!

"WITH NO TIME TO TALK, I SNARED A JUTTING FLAGPOLE WITH MY SILK ROPE, AND..."

IT'S BATMAN! LUKE MISSED HIM WITH THE CHATTER GUN--BUT I'LL GET HIM!

BAM! BAM!

"I HAD PREPARED A LARIAT, AND AS I SWUNG THROUGH THE AIR--FEELING LIKE A COWBOY WITHOUT A HORSE UNDER ME..."

THIS HAD BETTER WORK THE FIRST TIME--THEY'LL NEVER GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE...

THAT DOES IT! NOW-- TO GET THEM DOWN--TO WHERE THE POLICE CAN TAKE OVER!

"LATER, BELOW, I GOT MY FIRST GOOD LOOK AT THE MAN WHO HAD SLAMMED INTO ME ON THE ROOF..."

AREN'T YOU **HUGH RANKIN**, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR?

RIGHT, **BATMAN!** I, TOO, HAVE BEEN AFTER THE **TRAPEZE TEN!** THEY ROBBED A COUPLE OF MY CLIENTS!

I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HOW THE GANG WORKS. HOW THEY PLANT "SENTRIES" TO COVER THE MAIN OPERATION--HOW THEY...

WHERE'S **ROBIN?** I JUST REALIZED I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE ALL THIS STARTED!

"AND THAT WAS THE FIRST I LEARNED YOU HAD BEEN HIT, **ROBIN**..."

I'M OKAY! ONE OF THEIR BULLETS GOT MY LEG --

SURE HE'S OKAY!--BUT I'LL BET WHEN THE AMBULANCE ARRIVES THE DOC'LL TELL EVEN THE **BOY WONDER** TO STAY OFF HIS FEET FOR AWHILE!

I KNEW **THAT** PART OF THE STORY, BRUCE. BUT HOW DOES IT TIE IN WITH THAT DISGUISE YOU WORKED OUT TO LOOK LIKE RANKIN'S DUMMY? I DON'T GET IT!

YOU WOULDN'T--SINCE YOU WERE OUT OF THE REST OF THE ADVENTURE... BUT HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...

"BEFORE I LEFT RANKIN THAT NIGHT..."

WITH **ROBIN** OUT OF ACTION, IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO CARRY ON ALONE TO NAIL THE REST OF THE **TRAPEZE TEN!**

NOT **ALONE, BATMAN!** REMEMBER, I HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS CASE, TOO!

"FOR NEARLY A WEEK, THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE TRAPEZE TEN LAID LOW. THEN, ONE NIGHT AT THE GOTHAM SKYSCRAPER HELIPORT..."

I'D LIKE TWO GUARDS ASSIGNED TO ME FOR MY FLIGHT TO THE AIRPORT! I'M A DIAMOND COURIER!

YES, SIR. WE'LL HAVE YOUR MEN IN A FEW MINUTES.

"SUDDENLY, HANDS REACHED FROM ABOVE!"

WE'LL MAKE YOUR PROBLEM SIMPLE, MISTER! IF YOU HAVE NO DIAMONDS TO CARRY--YOU WON'T NEED ANY GUARDS!

HUH--??!!

"AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, I HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM A TIPSTER ABOUT THE DIAMOND—ROBBERY PLAN, AND JUST AS I GOT TO THE HELIPORT..."

THE GANG MEMBERS FORMED A HUMAN CHAIN--SNATCHED THE BRIEFCASE OF GEMS--AND WILL GET AWAY, UNLESS...

IT'S BATMAN! BUT DON'T WORRY--OPERATION FLARE WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

"FROM THE SHADOWS, A GANG MEMBER SENTRY FIRED AN ODD PISTOL..."

VLOOP!

"AND A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE A BLINDING EXPLOSION SHATTERED THE NIGHT SKY ABOVE THE HELIPORT..."

I RECOGNIZED THAT "VLOOP" SOUND, BATMAN--KNEW THE FLARE WOULD EXPLODE! IT'S A TRICK THE GANG USES TO TEMPORARILY BLIND ANYBODY TRYING TO STOP THEM! GOT TO COVER YOUR EYES!

RANKIN, YOU AGAIN!

I KNEW ABOUT THE DIAMOND COURIER, AND FIGURED THE GANG WOULD STRIKE HERE...

NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS! CALL THE POLICE HELI-COPTERS! THEY'LL FORCE THE GANG TO LAND -- WHERE I'LL BE WAITING BELOW! JOIN ME DOWN THERE!

"BUT WHEN I WAS ALONE..."

THIS SUBSTANCE FELL DOWN THROUGH THE EYE OPENING OF MY MASK WHEN RANKIN CLAMPED HIS HAND OVER MY EYES! IT'S A PARTICLE OF PLIABLE WAX!

WAX? JEEPERS--THIS IS REALLY BUILDING INTO A MYSTERY! WHERE DID THE WAX COME FROM?

SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS FROM WHAT HAPPENED AFTER-WARDS...

"SHORTLY, THE GANG LANDED -- BUT NOT BECAUSE POLICE 'COPTERS FORCED THEM DOWN! INSTEAD..."

THEY HAD A SURPRISE GETAWAY PLANNED ON THE GROUND, RANKIN -- THROUGH THAT ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL! COME ON...

"DOWN WE WENT -- INTO THE OMINOUS SILENCE OF THE GLOOMY OLD SUBWAY TUNNEL..."

NOT A SIGN OF THEM!

BATMAN! HEAR THAT SOUND? I KNOW WHAT IT IS! WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!

WHOOSH!

"MOMENTS LATER, A DELUGE OF WATER POURED IN FROM THE TUNNEL'S ROOF..."

CUTE LITTLE PLAN -- THE GANG WAS PREPARED TO OPEN A DUCT THAT WOULD FLOOD THE PLACE WITH RIVER WATER -- TO CUT OFF ANYBODY FOLLOWING THEM! I BROUGHT AN EXTRA BREATHING MASK -- PUT IT ON!

YOU SURE KNOW THAT GANG'S EVERY MOVE! THANKS -- BUT I CARRY A MINIATURE BREATHING APPARATUS IN MY UTILITY BELT!

WHOOSH!

"SWEPT ALONG BY THE FIERCE CURRENT THAT NOW RACED THROUGH THE TUNNEL, WE COULD SPOT THE GANG MEMBERS AHEAD..."

AS I REMEMBER THIS TUNNEL, WHEN SUBWAY SERVICE WAS STOPPED, AN OPENING WAS MADE THAT LED OUT NEAR THE BAY:.. IN CASE IT WAS NEEDED AS A DRAINAGE DUCT FOR HEAVY RAINS...

MY GUESS IS THE GANG WILL EXIT THERE -- AND HEAD FOR THE BAY! BUT THERE'S ALSO AN **EMERGENCY** EXIT UP AHEAD -- AND IF WE CAN GET OUT THERE -- WE CAN TAKE A SHORT CUT! HOPE RANKIN FOLLOWS MY LEAD...

"RANKIN GOT MY HAND SIGNAL, AND OUT WE WENT..."

EMERGENCY EXIT

"MINUTES COUNTED NOW..."

HURRY! WHEN THEY COME OUT, THEY'LL HAVE TO HEAD DOWN AN ALLEY NEAR HERE! IT'S THE SHORTEST WAY TO REACH THE BAY--WHERE THE GANG PROBABLY HAS A SPEED BOAT WAITING!

"WE SPED DOWN THE ALLEY, TO..."

THEY'LL COME RUNNING PAST THIS SPOT, RANKIN -- SO ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO STAY HERE AND HOLD THEM, WHILE THE OTHER CARRIES OUT A PLAN I HAVE IN MIND! Hmm -- THAT WINDOW...

NEPTUNE FISHING
TRUCKER'S ENTRANCE

"WHEN I EXPLAINED MY PLAN.."

UP YOU GO ! REMEMBER--LET ME MANEUVER THEM INTO POSITION BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE !

GOTCHA ! DON'T MIND IF I BALANCE MYSELF... I'M NOT MUCH AT CLIMBING...

"RANKIN HAD BARELY MADE IT INTO THE WINDOW, WHEN..."

HA, HA ! LOOK AT THAT-- **BATMAN** FORMING A ONE-MAN "ROADBLOCK"! LET'S RUSH 'IM !

YEAH, WE OWE HIM PLENTY FOR GETTING IN OUR HAIR! HERE'S OUR CHANCE-- WITH HIM ALONE !

"THEY WERE AFTER ME LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES AFTER A RABBIT--AND THAT'S WHEN I TWISTED MYSELF FREE, ROLLED AWAY..."

NOW, RANKIN-- **NOW !!**

"RANKIN CAME THROUGH--IN SPADES !"

HOW'S THAT FOR A **NET PROFIT, BATMAN ?**

GREAT ! WE CAN DELIVER THEM TO THE PRECINCT-- AND GO HOME !

I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! RANKIN, PLANNING ALL ALONG TO JOIN THE **MYSTERY ANALYSTS**, THOUGHT HE'D KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE--HELP CATCH THE **TRAPEZE TEN--AND** SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE FACE BEHIND YOUR MASK!

RIGHT--SO FAR!

WITH HIS EXPERT SENSE OF TOUCH,* RANKIN WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE YOUR **WEIGHT** AND **FIGURE** WHEN HE HALF-LIFTED, HALF-SHOVED YOU OUT OF THE WAY OF THE SUB-MACHINE GUN FIRE AT THE DERRICK SCENE... AND USED **WAX** TO GET AN **IMPRESSION OF YOUR EYES** WHEN THE **FLARE** WENT OFF...

*Editor's Note: THE PERCEPTION OF THE FORM, WEIGHT, etc. OF A SOLID BODY BY HANDLING AND LIFTING IT IS TECHNICALLY KNOWN AS **STEREOGNOSIS.**

YOU TUMBLED TO HIS SCHEME WHEN YOU FOUND THE PARTICLE OF WAX--THEN YOU **DELIBERATELY DISGUISED YOURSELF**, AFTER YOU SEPARATED BRIEFLY FROM RANKIN AT THE HELIPORT! WHEN RANKIN GAVE THE BREATHING MASK TO YOU--HE FELT YOUR **NOSE**... TO GET ITS SHAPE...

...

FINALLY, WHILE YOU WERE HELPING HIM UP TO THE WINDOW, RANKIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF FEELING THE SHAPE OF YOUR **"BALD" HEAD!** THAT'S HOW YOUR GREAT **"FACE-SAVING"** FEAT AT THE **ANALYST** MEETING **SAFEGUARDED YOUR IDENTITY!**

STILL AND ALL, RANKIN DID SUCH A **NEAT** PIECE OF WORK, **HE'LL** MAKE THE **MYSTERY ANALYSTS** ONE OF THESE DAYS!

The End